

# Garfield's Rescue hosts neonate kitten training

Garfield's Rescue Inc. (GRI) volunteers recently enjoyed an informative, lifesaving training session at Lancaster Community Library, presented by Kimberly Manthy with Wildlife 911 Northern Neck, a lifesaving organization that has helped rescue more than 1,200 injured and orphaned animals since its 2023 inception.

Manthy's federally recognized service animal, Tommy, a Sphinx hairless cat, was her "model." Known for being energetic, social, intelligent and very people oriented, Tommy was a great candidate for the class and charmed the audience, reported GRI president Karen Peterson.

With over 35 years experience raising neonates, Manthy presented to GRI volunteers all aspects of neonate kitten care, from intake triage and assessment, to medical and nutrition management. Attendees learned how to assess common challenges for abandoned newborn kittens from hypothermia, anemia and dehydration to respiratory and eye infections, said Peterson.

She instructed how to nurse tiny kittens safely with syringes and nipples, explaining why baby bottles and tube feedings are so dangerous. Attendees learned that critical to the



**From left are Melissa Curtis, Tommy and Kimberly Manthy, all with Wildlife 911 Northern Neck.**

kitten's survival is checking simple vitals like breathing, temperature, injuries, hydration and external parasites. She stressed to be observant and note concerns, no matter how slight...this critical information could help a vet save the kitten's life, continued Peterson.

Emergency care was demonstrated to make kittens in distress comfortable while they are taken to a vet or emergency hospital. Medicating techniques were addressed for the

age old question of "how do you give a cat a pill?" Manthy believed this best taught by a veterinarian, though gave the alternative mode we all have used of crushing the pill and putting it in a treat or liquids.

Of the 388 cats rescued by GRI in 2025, 272 were kittens younger than six months, so this critical care class for abandoned neonate kittens was of great importance, said Peterson.

GRI receives so many kittens in extreme distress, subjected to unknown cruelties and neglect.

Knowing how to create the most informative intake sheet with weight and approximate age, where found, any history if possible, and giving the kitten a name worthy of its fight was emphasized by Manthy.

Lifesaving spay/neuter surgeries are the only 100% effective method of birth control for cats. The other side to that narrative is overcrowded shelters forced to euthanize healthy cats and kittens. With help from the community, GRI can continue to reverse this cruel practice saving more lives to give these abandoned cats and kittens a second chance at life, said Peterson.

"Our fifth year in operation, with our lifesaving record to date of 2,363 cats and kittens, we are experienced in this lifesaving work with our robust spay/neuter/vaccination, foster to adopt program," said Peterson. "We continue to educate ourselves to learn the most effective ways to care for the cats and kittens in our care, such as providing a forum for the education of our dedicated volunteers."

Wildlife 911 Northern Neck has a 24-hour hotline to call for help at 453-0050, or visit [wildlife911nn.com](http://wildlife911nn.com).

Learn about GRI volunteer opportunities or how to make a lifesaving gift at 480-2066, [garfieldsrescue@gmail.com](mailto:garfieldsrescue@gmail.com), or [www.garfieldsrescue.org](http://www.garfieldsrescue.org).

## Boating Tips Safety and Stories